

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

252
8451



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Office of
Public Affairs

SD

Selected Speeches and News Releases

Aug. 27 - Sept. 2, 1992

IN THIS ISSUE:

News Releases—

Scientists Agree on How to Diagnose Diseases in Pigs

USDA Changes Cotton Price Definition

USDA Proposes Nutrition Label Format

Tips to Banish Brown Bag Bacteria

USDA Announces Sugar Tariff Rate Quota for 1992/93 Period

USDA Determines Sugar Marketing Allotments Unnecessary

USDA Extends Its Authority to Fine Mail Violators to Military Mail System

USDA Announces Prevailing World Market Price and User Marketing
Certificate Payment Rate for Upland Cotton

Burley Tobacco Advisory Committee to Meet Oct. 2

National Organic Standards Board to Meet Sept. 27-30

USDA Announces County Loan Rates for Soybeans

Agricultural Export Forecast is Second Highest on Record, Madigan Says

USDA Relocates GSM-102 Credit Guarantees to Russia for Fiscal 1992

USDA Makes Chile Eligible for Additional Milk Powder Under DEIP

FGIS Seeking Information on Fumonisin Test Kits

FGIS Proposes No Change to Beans, Peas, and Lentils Standards

Egypt Eligible for More Wheat Under Export Enhancement Program

Emergency Food Shipments Distributed in South Florida

Kansas Firm Recalls Franks

USDA Announces Extension for Sugar Loans

SEP 28 '92
AUG 23
Continued on Inside Cover

Contents continued

USDA Announces Prevailing World Market Rice Prices

USDA Increases Emergency Food Assistance for Hurricane Victims

Plants Release Distress Signal When Under Caterpillar Attack

USDA Amends Potato Research and Promotion Rules and Regulations

CCC Interest Rate for September Lowered to 3-1/2 Percent

Emerging Democracies Advisory Committee to Hold Inaugural Meeting

Private Exporters Report Sales Activity for Uzbekistan

USDA Combats "Alien Invader" of the Great Lakes and Farm Irrigation Systems

Crops Crash-Tested for Surviving Drought

USDA Announces 1992/93 Export Enhancement Package for Wheat

Private Exporters Report Sales Activity for Unknown

News Releases

U.S. Department of Agriculture • Office of Public Affairs

Vince Mazzola (301) 504-8712
Leslie Parker (202) 720-4026

SCIENTISTS AGREE ON HOW TO DIAGNOSE DISEASES IN PIGS

WASHINGTON, Aug. 27—A U.S. Department of Agriculture researcher today said animal scientists in 11 countries will cooperate on ways to speed the diagnosis of diseases in pigs worldwide.

Joan K. Lunney of USDA's Agricultural Research Service said 30 scientists met in Budapest, Hungary, last week and agreed on techniques for detecting pig diseases such as trichinosis.

"We wanted to be sure that a scientist diagnosing a disease of swine in London agrees with a researcher working on the same disease in Beltsville," said Lunney, on returning to her laboratory at the Beltsville, Md., Agricultural Research Center. An animal immunologist, Lunney organized and chaired the workshop in Budapest.

She said the goal is to standardize how scientists build and use monoclonal antibodies to identify cell markers in pigs. These markers tell researchers which pig cells are active in fighting infection, Lunney said, but there are at least 30 markers on just one white blood cell while the total number is in the hundreds.

"Currently, there are many ways to detect cell markers, complicating our efforts to cooperate," she said. "This underscores the need for scientists to be certain they are talking about the same markers."

She said researchers have agreed, as a first step, to standardize 11 cell markers. Also, 11 other markers will be evaluated for possible uniformity.

Lunney said scientists at the workshop came from Australia, Britain, Czechoslovakia, France, Germany, Holland, Japan, Sweden, Switzerland, Spain and Yugoslavia.

NOTE TO EDITORS: For details, contact Joan K. Lunney, immunologist, Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, USDA, ARS, Beltsville, Md. 20705. Telephone (301) 504-9368.

#

Michael Hunst (202) 720-7017

USDA CHANGES COTTON PRICE DEFINITION

WASHINGTON Aug. 27—The U.S. Department of Agriculture has changed the official definition for the farm price of cotton to “f.o.b. warehouse.” Beginning with the 1992 crop, this will be the price reported in “Agricultural Prices” and related publications from the National Agricultural Statistics Service. It also will be the price used in farm program operations.

Previously, the definition of the price received by farmers for cotton was determined at the first point of sale, which differed depending on how cotton was marketed.

The change was necessary because new trading rules for cotton in some markets would have affected the price received by farmers as reported under the previous definition. The new definition will prevent any future rules adjustments from unduly affecting the reported farm price. The new definition also will help retain a farm price consistent with past estimates and maintain the price relationships used for determining the deficiency payment rate.

#

Jim Greene (202) 720-0314
Edwin Moffett (202) 720-4026

USDA PROPOSES NUTRITION LABEL FORMAT

WASHINGTON, Aug. 27—The U.S. Department of Agriculture is proposing to adopt a standard format to present nutrition information on labels of meat and poultry products.

“Our goal is to choose a label that will be most helpful to consumers in selecting a balanced diet,” said Donald White, associate administrator of USDA’s Food Safety and Inspection Service. “We want to know what features make a label understandable, readable and useful.”

FSIS is requesting comments on the same nine label formats contained in the Food and Drug Administration’s proposal on nutrition label format published in the July 20 Federal Register. Of these nine formats, FSIS proposes to establish either the “Control with Dietary Guidance” or the “Control with Recommended Daily Intake Range” as the standard label format.

The “Control with Dietary Guidance” format not only lists important nutrients, but includes dietary guidance as well. Nutrients listed would include fat, cholesterol, sodium, and selected vitamins and minerals.

The label also would list the dietary guidelines contained in the publication “Nutrition and Your Health: Dietary Guidelines for Americans,” which was developed by USDA and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to guide individuals on how to select a nutritious diet that meets individual needs.

According to White, including the dietary guidelines emphasizes that nutrient information must be linked to dietary guidance.

“The dietary guidelines encourage consumers to consider individual foods as part of a total diet,” he said. “It is the total diet that has an impact on an individual’s health.”

The second proposed format, “Control with Recommended Daily Intake Range,” lists the same nutrients contained in the first format and presents advised daily intakes of nutrients as a range. The use of a range instead of a single value accommodates nutrient requirements that vary with age, sex, activity level and body composition. For example, the recommended daily intake of protein would be listed as 40-70 grams, rather than using one value such as 60 grams.

“We have some concerns that a single dietary value on all food labels is inaccurate for most consumers,” said White. “Since there is no average consumer when it comes to nutrient requirements, there is no one magic number, either.” he said.

Comments on the proposal, which will be published in the Aug. 28 Federal Register, are due by Sept. 28 and should be sent to: FSIS Hearing Clerk, Rm. 3171-S, Food Safety and Inspection Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C., 20250. The comment period on FDA’s label format proposal closed Aug. 19.

Under proposed nutrition labeling rules issued Nov. 27, 1991, FSIS would require nutrition labeling for processed products such as frankfurters and stews. Nutrition labeling for raw, single ingredient meat and poultry products such as chicken breasts and roasts would be voluntary.

FSIS and its 9,000 employees are dedicated to protecting the public by ensuring that meat and poultry products are safe, wholesome and accurately labeled.

#

Susan Conley (202) 720-5025
Jim Greene (202) 720-0314
Leslie Parker (202) 720-4026

TIPS TO BANISH BROWN BAG BACTERIA

WASHINGTON, Aug. 27—Brown bagging it is popular these days, but food safety should be taken seriously—especially during this time of year. Here's a lesson on food safety for everyone to follow when packing lunches for the little ones ... or the big ones.

1. Lesson # 1: There's no substitute for CLEAN. Make sure all lunch boxes and thermoses have been thoroughly cleaned with soap and warm water. Start with a new lunch bag every day. It's not a good idea to reuse bags. And remember to wash your hands before making lunches.
2. Lesson # 2: HOT FOODS MUST BE KEPT HOT AND COLD FOODS MUST BE KEPT COLD. Bacteria love room temperature. At temperatures between 40°F and 140°F bacteria can double every 20 minutes.

TO KEEP FOOD COLD...TRY FREEZING YOUR SANDWICH the night before. Coarse textured breads freeze best. Items like lettuce and tomatoes should be packed separately. Even foods like fruit, cookies, and pretzel bags can be packed in the refrigerator the night before so that everything starts out cold. Include a freezer gel-pack with the lunch. Enclose the gel-pack in a plastic bag to prevent moisture from wetting other items in the lunch bag or box. Check the gel-pack after each use to make sure that it is not leaking. You can also use a frozen juice box as a cold source. The juice will thaw but will still be cold at lunchtime. And remember not to place lunches on warm window sills or radiators.

TO KEEP FOOD HOT...USE A WELL-INSULATED THERMOS. Fill the thermos with hot water first and let it stand for several minutes. Then empty the thermos and fill it right away with hot food that has been brought to a boil. If the food is still hot to the touch, it will be safe to eat. Be sure to discard leftovers.

Favorite foods such as peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and individually wrapped shelf stable cheeses are good examples of lunches that do not require special handling.

LESSON # 3: WASH THEIR HANDS BEFORE EATING.
Microbiologists say if you look at the surfaces of the hands under a microscope, they're covered with folds and craters where bacteria can "hide."

LESSON # 4: PACK VARIETY AS WELL AS SAFETY INTO YOUR LUNCH. Even small changes can make a big difference in eating a healthy

lunch. Here are a few suggestions: a peanut butter sandwich on raisin bread; cheddar cheese chunks and a fruited muffin; a box of cereal and a shelf stable carton of milk; mini cheese sandwiches on whole wheat crackers; sandwiches using pita bread, english muffins, or bagels; or meat sandwiches cut into unusual shapes. Freeze the sandwich and then experiment with cookie cutter shapes.

If you have any questions on food safety or packing a nutritious lunch, call the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Meat and Poultry Hotline at 1-800-535-4555. In the metropolitan Washington, D.C area call (202) 720-3333. Hotline hours are 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. eastern time, weekdays.

#

Rebecca Broeking (202) 720-3448
Diane O'Connor (202) 720-4026

USDA ANNOUNCES SUGAR TARIFF RATE QUOTA FOR 1992/93 PERIOD

WASHINGTON, Aug. 27—Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan today announced the U.S. tariff rate quota for sugar in 1992/93 is 1,231,000 metric tons (or 1,356,945 short tons). This quota is for sugar allowed to enter the United States at the low duty rate. It is effective Oct. 1.

Total authorized quota shipments are the sum of the specialty sugar quota, the minimum quota allocations, the quota adjustment amount and the base import quota minus certain adjustments in the base import quota.

For the Oct. 1, 1992 to Sept. 30, 1993 period, 92 metric tons, raw value (101 short tons) are the quota adjustment amount; 1,656 metric tons, raw value (about 1,825 short tons) are the specialty sugar import quota; and 1,166,000 metric tons, raw value (about 1,285,294 short tons) are the base import quota. In addition, the minimum quota allocation is 72,580 metric tons, raw value (about 80,006 short tons).

The 1992/93 country-by-country tariff rate quota allocations for sugar allowed into the United States at the low duty rate were announced today by the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative. These allocations are as follows (in metric tons, raw value):

Argentina	50,142	Australia	96,786
Barbados	8,163	Belize	12,827
Bolivia	9,329	Brazil	169,084
Colombia	27,986	Congo	7,258

Costa Rica	17,491	Cote d'Ivoire	7,258
Dominican Republic	205,232	Ecuador	12,827
El Salvador	30,318	Fiji	10,495
Gabon	7,258	Guatemala	55,972
Guyana	13,993	Haiti	7,258
Honduras	11,661	India	9,329
Jamaica	12,827	Madagascar	7,258
Malawi	11,661	Mauritius	13,993
Mexico	7,258	Mozambique	15,159
Nicaragua	24,488	Panama	33,817
Papua New Guinea	7,258	Paraguay	7,258
Peru	47,810	Philippines	157,422
St. Kitts and Nevis	7,258	South Africa	26,820
Swaziland	18,658	Taiwan	13,993
Thailand	16,325	Trinidad-Tobago	8,163
Uruguay	7,258	Zimbabwe	13,993

Conversion factor: 1 metric ton = 1.10231125 short tons.

#

Robert Feist (202) 720-6789
Edwin Moffett (202) 720-4026

USDA DETERMINES SUGAR MARKETING ALLOTMENTS UNNECESSARY

WASHINGTON, Aug. 27—Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan today announced that marketing allotments for domestic sugar will not be established during the first quarter of fiscal year 1993.

Madigan said this determination is based on an estimate that sugar imports for fiscal year 1993 will exceed the 1.25-million-short-ton trigger level for establishing marketing allotments under the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938, as amended. Re-estimates of fiscal year import requirements will be made quarterly to determine if marketing allotments are to be established later.

#

Roberta McCorkle (301) 436-7280
Edwin Moffett (202) 720-4026

USDA EXTENDS ITS AUTHORITY TO FINE MAIL VIOLATORS TO MILITARY MAIL SYSTEM

WASHINGTON, Aug. 27—Users of the military mail system who mail prohibited agricultural items to the United States or its territories will be subject to a minimum \$250 fine, beginning Sept. 15, a U.S. Department of Agriculture official said today.

This action brings the military mail system under the same restrictions that have been in place for the U.S. postal system. The Plant Quarantine Act and other federal laws prohibit entry of foreign agricultural products that could spread pests and diseases to American crops and livestock.

“Mailing agricultural products home through APO and FPO postal systems has the potential to devastate many agricultural industries,” said Robert B. Melland, administrator of USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. “A single fruit or a meat product can contain a pest organism or disease that can damage crops or cause disease in animals.”

APHIS currently enforces similar regulations in the United States against individuals who fail to declare agricultural products in their possession upon arrival at the first port of entry. These regulations also cover unauthorized products moving from Hawaii to the U.S. mainland.

Prohibited are meats including salami, ham, bacon and all types of sausage. Soup mixes containing meat are prohibited. Fresh fruits and vegetables; plants, seeds, bulbs and soil cannot be mailed into the United States either.

Using X-ray machines and detector dogs, APHIS officers inspect international mail as it arrives at U.S. mail facilities. Starting Sept. 15, violators using the military mail system will be fined a minimum of \$250 and up to \$1,000 for a civil penalty. USDA may choose to pursue criminal action resulting in a fine of \$5,000 and/or a year in jail.

Postal patrons should always declare agricultural items on the U.S. Customs form accompanying every package. “Many items, such as baked goods and hard cheeses, are permitted,” Melland said.

The USDA pamphlet “Travelers’ Tips” gives a full listing of prohibited and permitted items and is available from Military Customs and U.S. embassies and consulates.

#

Janise Zygmont (202) 720-7954
Leslie Parker (202) 720-4026

USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET PRICE AND USER MARKETING CERTIFICATE PAYMENT RATE FOR UPLAND COTTON

Washington, Aug. 27—Keith Bjerke, executive vice president of USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation, today announced the prevailing world market price, adjusted to U.S. quality and location (adjusted world price), for Strict Low Middling (SLM) 1-1/16 inch (micronaire 3.5-3.6 and 4.3-4.9, strength 24-25 grams per tex) upland cotton (base quality), the coarse count adjustment and the user marketing certificate payment rate in effect from 12:01 a.m. Friday, Aug. 28, through midnight Thursday, Sept. 3.

The Agricultural Act of 1949, as amended, provides that the AWP may be further adjusted if: (a) the AWP is less than 115 percent of the current crop year loan rate for base quality upland cotton, and (b) the Friday through Thursday average price quotation for the lowest-priced U.S. growth as quoted for Middling (M) 1-3/32 inch cotton, C.I.F. northern Europe (USNE price) exceeds the Northern Europe (NE) price. The maximum allowable adjustment is the difference between the USNE price and the NE price.

A further adjustment to this week's calculated AWP may be made in accordance with this provision. The calculated AWP is 84 percent of the 1992 upland cotton base quality loan rate, and the USNE price exceeds the NE price by 4.00 cents per pound. Following are the relevant calculations:

I.	Calculated AWP	44.19 cents per pound
	1992 Base Loan Rate	52.35 cents per pound
	AWP as a Percent of Loan Rate	84
II.	USNE Price	62.10 cents per pound
	NE Price	<u>-58.10</u> cents per pound
	Maximum Adjustment Allowed	4.00 cents per pound

Based on a consideration of the U.S. share of world exports, the current level of cotton export sales and cotton export shipments, and other relevant data, no further adjustment to this week's calculated AWP will be made. This week's AWP and coarse count adjustment are determined as follows:

Adjusted World Price

NE Price	58.10
Adjustments:	
Average U.S. spot market location	12.05
SLM 1-1/16 inch cotton	1.55
Average U.S. location	0.31
Sum of Adjustments	<u>-13.91</u>
Calculated AWP	44.19
Further AWP Adjustment	<u>- 0</u>
ADJUSTED WORLD PRICE	44.19 cents/lb.

Coarse Count Adjustment

NE Price	58.10
NE Coarse Count Price	<u>-52.73</u>
	5.37
Adjustment to SLM 1-1/32 inch cotton	<u>-3.95</u>
COARSE COUNT ADJUSTMENT	1.42 cents/lb.

Because the AWP is below the 1990, 1991 and 1992 base quality loan rates of 50.27, 50.77 and 52.35 cents per pound, respectively, the loan repayment rate during this period is equal to the AWP, adjusted for the specific quality and location plus applicable interest and storage charges. The AWP will continue to be used to determine the value of upland cotton that is obtained in exchange for commodity certificates.

Because the AWP is below the 1992-crop loan rate, cash loan deficiency payments will be paid to eligible producers who agree to forgo obtaining a price support loan with respect to the 1992 crop. The payment rate is equal to the difference between the loan rate and the AWP. Producers are allowed to obtain a loan deficiency payment on a bale-by-bale basis.

The USNE price has exceeded the NE price by more than 1.25 cents per pound for four consecutive weeks and the AWP has not exceeded 130 percent of the 1992 crop year base quality loan rate in any week of the 4-week period. As a result, the user marketing certificate payment rate is 2.75 cents per pound. This rate is applicable during the Friday through Thursday period for bales opened by domestic users and for cotton contracts entered into by exporters for delivery prior to September 30, 1993. Relevant data used in determining the user marketing certificate payment rate are summarized below:

Week	For the Friday through Thursday Period	USNE Current Price	NE Current Price	USNE Minus NE	Certificate Payment Rate 1/	
1	Aug. 6, 1992		65.65	61.38	4.27	3.02
2	Aug. 13, 1992	64.25	60.55	3.70	2.45	
3	Aug. 20, 1992	62.45	58.97	3.48	2.23	
4	Aug. 27, 1992	62.10	58.10	4.00	2.75	

1/ USNE price minus NE price minus 1.25 cents.

The next announcement of the AWP, coarse count adjustment and user marketing certificate payment rate will be made on Thursday, Sept. 3.

#

Alicia L. Ford (202) 720-8998
Diane O'Connor (202) 720-4026

BURLEY TOBACCO ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO MEET OCT. 2

WASHINGTON, Aug. 27—The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Burley Tobacco Advisory Committee will meet Friday, Oct. 2, in Lexington, Ky.

Daniel D. Haley, administrator of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, said the committee will recommend market opening dates, discuss previous committee requests, review regulations pertaining to the Tobacco Inspection Act and address related issues.

The 39-member committee, established by the secretary of agriculture, provides information essential to the orderly marketing of burley tobacco. The committee also recommends opening dates and selling schedules for the burley tobacco-growing regions from Missouri to Virginia.

The meeting, which will start at 10 a.m., will take place at the Campbell House Inn, North Colonial Hall, 1375 Harrodsburg Road. It is open to the public. Anyone who wants to address the committee should contact the Director, Tobacco Division, AMS, Room 502 Annex, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456; tele. (202) 205-0567.

Written comments may be given to the chairman of the advisory committee at the meeting. Comments may also be submitted to the above address before or after the meeting.

Notice of the meeting will be published in the Aug. 31 Federal Register. Copies are available from the above address.

#

Becky Unkenholz (202) 720-8998
Diane O'Connor (202) 720-4026

NATIONAL ORGANIC STANDARDS BOARD TO MEET SEPT. 27-30

WASHINGTON, Aug. 27—The National Organic Standards Board will meet Sept. 27-30 in Augusta, Maine.

Daniel D. Haley, administrator of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, said the board will review the work of its various committees and develop plans for the next fiscal year.

On Sept. 27, NOSB will hold a public input session from 1 to 5 p.m. at the Common Ground Fair Site at the Windsor Fairgrounds, Route 32, Windsor. The full board will meet Sept. 28, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., at the Best Western Senator Inn, 284 Western Ave., Augusta. The board's issues committees will meet separately Sept. 29, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the same location, and the full board will reconvene there Sept. 30, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Notice of the meeting will be published in the Aug. 31 Federal Register. Those who want to submit written comments or speak at the public input session should contact Harold S. Ricker, Staff Director, National Organic Standards Board, TMD, AMS, USDA, Rm. 4006-S. P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456, telephone (202) 720-2704, FAX (202) 690-0338, by Sept. 18.

The secretary of agriculture appointed the 14-member NOSB in January to advise USDA on the best ways to implement the National Organic Certification Program mandated by the 1990 Farm Bill.

NOSB met for the first time in March and formed six committees: Crop Standards; Livestock Standards; Processing, Labeling and Packaging; National Materials List; International Issues; and Accreditation.

#

Bruce Merkle (202) 720-8206
Leslie Parker (202) 720-4026

USDA ANNOUNCES COUNTY LOAN RATES FOR SOYBEANS

WASHINGTON, Aug. 27—The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation today announced county price support loan rates for the 1992 crop of soybeans.

The loan rates were set in accordance with the provisions of the Agricultural Act of 1949 and reflect the national average price support loan levels of \$5.02 cents per bushel.

Copies of the rate schedules are available from: Thomas Fink, Cotton, Grain and Rice Price Support Division, USDA, ASCS, P.O. Box 2415, Washington, D.C., (202) 720-8701.

#

Lynn K. Goldsborough (202) 720-3448
Diane O'Connor (202) 720-4026

AGRICULTURAL EXPORT FORECAST IS SECOND HIGHEST ON RECORD, MADIGAN SAYS

WASHINGTON, Aug. 27—The U.S. Department of Agriculture has raised its forecast of U.S. agricultural exports for fiscal year 1992 to \$41.5 billion, up \$500 million from the May outlook and \$4 billion higher than last year's \$37.5 billion.

Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan said it is the second highest export value ever, surpassed only by the fiscal 1981 figure of \$43.8 billion.

"This forecast increase means more income for farmers and ranchers," Madigan said.

"Improving export prospects for coarse grains and livestock products since May have boosted the export total we're anticipating," Madigan said.

"Higher corn shipments to drought-stricken sub-Saharan Africa and sorghum sales to Mexico account for much of the gain in the coarse grain sector. In the area of livestock, much of the forecast's increase is in live cattle shipments to Mexico and finished beef exports to Mexico, Japan, and Korea."

Madigan said that the \$4-billion increase in exports from last year is the result of expected gains in both bulk and high-value products. "We're expecting increases of more than \$1 billion each for wheat and oilseeds and

products, and gains of close to \$1 billion each for horticultural and livestock products," he said.

Madigan said increased exports to Mexico figured prominently in today's export forecast rise. "The negotiation of a North American Free Trade Agreement was formally concluded less than two weeks ago. NAFTA is expected to boost market opportunities for U.S. bulk commodities and high-value farm products. NAFTA will assure that this kind of growth in U.S. agricultural exports to Mexico continues. This is just the tip of the iceberg."

The forecast for fiscal 1992 U.S. agricultural imports was raised by \$500 million to \$23.5 billion as a result of increased imports of wines, malt beverages, and grain products.

Today's trade forecast in agricultural exports will also boost the U.S. agricultural trade surplus by \$3.1 billion from last fiscal year to \$18 billion. "This would be the largest surplus since fiscal 1989," said Madigan.

#

Rebecca Broeking (202) 720-3448
Diane O'Connor (202) 720-4026

USDA REALLOCATES GSM-102 CREDIT GUARANTEES TO RUSSIA FOR FISCAL 1992

WASHINGTON, Aug. 27—The U.S. Department of Agriculture has reallocated about \$2.5 million of credit guarantees available in connection with sales of U.S. agricultural commodities to Russia under the Commodity Credit Corporation's Export Credit Guarantee Program (GSM-102) for fiscal 1992.

Christopher Goldthwait, acting general sales manager for USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service, said the reallocation, made at the request of Russian government, increases the credit guarantee line for sales of vegetable oils (soybean, cottonseed, peanut, linseed, corn and sunflowerseed) from \$14.14 million to about \$16.64 million, and reduces the tallow allocation from approximately \$30.8 million to about \$28.3 million.

The total fiscal 1992 allocation remains unchanged at \$544.65 million, and all other terms and conditions previously announced remain the same.

For further information, call (202) 720-3224. For 24-hour information on Export Credits activities, call (202) 690-1621.

#

Rebecca Broeking (202) 720-3448
Diane O'Connor (202) 720-4026

USDA MAKES CHILE ELIGIBLE FOR ADDITIONAL MILK POWDER UNDER DEIP

WASHINGTON, Aug. 28—Acting Under Secretary of Agriculture R. Randall Green today announced that Chile is eligible for an additional 2,000 metric tons of milk powder under the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Dairy Export Incentive Program.

Sales of milk powder will be made through normal commercial channels at competitive world prices. Sales will be facilitated through the payment of bonuses of USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation.

This milk powder allocation will be valid until Dec. 31, as provided in the invitation for offers. Details of the program will be issued in the near future.

For more information call Janet M. Kavan, (202) 720-5540, or Larry McElvain, (202) 720-6211.

#

Dana Stewart (202) 720-5091
Leslie Parker (202) 720-4026

FGIS SEEKING INFORMATION ON FUMONISIN TEST KITS

WASHINGTON, Aug. 28—The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Federal Grain Inspection Service is seeking information on commercially available test kits that determine the presence of fumonisin in grains and commodities under field conditions.

Fumonisin is a chemical substance resulting from the metabolic process of certain molds in grain.

According to FGIS administrator John C. Foltz, test kit information will help the agency determine whether to offer fumonisin testing. Grains and commodities currently being considered for testing include corn, wheat, corn and wheat products, corn gluten feed, corn meal, milled rice and sorghum.

Manufacturers are asked to notify FGIS of the commercial availability of test kits for fumonisin and provide information on the performance of these kits to Dr. Chuan Kao, USDA, FGIS Technical Center, 10383 North Executive Hills Boulevard, Kansas City, Miss. 64153; telephone (816) 374-6501. information must be submitted on or before Sept. 28.

#

Dana Stewart (202) 720-5091
Leslie Parker (202) 720-4026

FGIS PROPOSES NO CHANGE TO BEANS, PEAS, AND LENTILS STANDARDS

WASHINGTON, Aug. 28—Following a required periodic review of the U.S. Standards for Beans, Whole Dry Peas, Split Peas and Lentils, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Federal Grain Inspection Service is proposing that no changes be made to the standards.

According to FGIS administrator John C. Foltz, the standards appear to be meeting the needs of producers, warehouse managers, shippers and all others who handle or market peas and lentils.

Public comments are being requested before a final decision is made. Comments must be submitted to George Wollam, FGIS, Room 0619 South Bldg., P.O. Box 96454, Washington, D.C. 20090-6454 on or before Oct. 26.

#

Rebecca Broeking (202) 720-3448
Diane O'Connor (202) 720-4026

EGYPT ELIGIBLE FOR MORE WHEAT UNDER EXPORT ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

WASHINGTON, Aug. 28—Acting Under Secretary of Agriculture R. Randall Green today announced an opportunity for sales of an additional 2 million metric tons of U.S. wheat to Egypt under the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Export Enhancement Program.

Sales of wheat will be made to buyers in Egypt through normal commercial channels at competitive world prices. The export sales will be facilitated through payment of bonuses by USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation. The subsidy will enable U.S. exporters to compete at commercial prices in the Egyptian market.

This allocation will be valid until June 30, 1993, as provided for in the invitation for offers. Details of the program, including an invitation for offers from exporters, will be issued in the near future.

For more information call Richard J. Chavez, (202) 720-5540, or Larry McElvain, (202) 720-6211.

#

EMERGENCY FOOD SHIPMENTS DISTRIBUTED IN SOUTH FLORIDA

WASHINGTON, Aug. 28—More than 200,000 pounds of free food already has been distributed to thousands of hungry residents in South Florida ravaged by Hurricane Andrew, and another 25 truckloads from Kansas City are on the way, the U.S. Department of Agriculture said today.

USDA entered its second day of distributing nearly 422,000 pounds of food packages valued at more than \$300,000 in seven locations in Homestead, Perrine, Florida City and Miami. Some of the food was given directly to the Red Cross, while other packages were available for the asking.

Another 25 truckloads of food—743,946 pounds valued at \$637,639—were in route to Florida from warehouses in Kansas City, and were expected to arrive in South Florida by mid-day Saturday, as a result of President Bush's disaster declaration.

"USDA and Florida state officials are now distributing 12,600 cases of pre-cooked pork, peanut butter, applesauce, raisins, orange juice, crackers, infant formula and other foods at two sites in South Dade County," Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan said.

Distribution trucks began handing out food packages at 9 a.m Friday at the National Guard Armory, 300 12th St., U.S. 1, Homestead, and at City Hall, 344 W. Palm Drive, Florida City.

In addition, USDA commodities also are available at five emergency feeding locations in South Florida. Thirteen truckloads of food were being delivered Thursday and Friday to the following Food and Water Distribution Centers established by the Governor's Emergency Management Office:

—Homestead Middle School, 650 NW Second Ave., Homestead, Fla. 33030; telephone (305) 247-4221.

—Perrine Elementary School, 8851 SW 168th St., Perrine, Fla. 33157; telephone (305) 235-2442.

—Richmond Heights Middle School, 15015 SW 103rd Ave., Miami, Fla. 33176; telephone (305) 238-2316.

—First Baptist Church, 10301 Caribbean Blvd., Miami, Fla. 33189; telephone (305) 235-2133.

—Miami Dade Community College, 11011 SW 104th St., Miami, Fla. 33176; telephone (305) 347-2245.

USDA's Food and Nutrition Service is working with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and various state agencies to expedite the distribution of USDA commodities to residents of the area hardest hit by the hurricane in South Dade County, including Florida City and Homestead.

Virgil Conrad, regional FNS administrator in Atlanta, Ga., has set up a task force to implement USDA emergency food assistance programs.

"USDA foods are available in sufficient quantities in Florida to fulfill immediate demands," Conrad said. "We also have other USDA commodities on standby in nearby states for shipment into the area if they are needed."

#

Jim Greene (202) 720-0314
Edwin Moffett (202) 720-4026

KANSAS FIRM RECALLS FRANKS

WASHINGTON, Aug. 28—The U.S. Department of Agriculture today announced that Swift-Eckrich, Inc., Kansas City, Kan., is voluntarily recalling approximately 5,000 pounds of its "Eckrich Bunsized Franks" because the product was undercooked. The franks have the potential of causing serious illness if eaten, according to a USDA official.

The recalled franks are sold in 1-pound packages, which can be identified by the establishment number "EST. 3-A" inside the inspection legend and a "SELL BY OCT 9 10" code stamped on the label. They may have been distributed to eight states: Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky, Missouri, Florida, Illinois and Pennsylvania.

The recall involves only the "Eckrich Bunsized Franks." It does not include the company's "Eckrich Bunsized Beef Franks."

"Although no illnesses have been reported, we urge consumers who may have purchased the suspect franks to return them to the place of purchase," said Dr. Donald L. White, associate administrator of USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service.

The problem was discovered by a retail vendor who noticed that the franks contained off-color juices.

Consumers with questions about the recall may phone the toll-free USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline at 1-800-535-4555. The Hotline can be reached from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (EST) Monday through Friday. The Hotline phone number provides access to a telecommunications device for the hearing impaired.

#

USDA ANNOUNCES EXTENSION FOR SUGAR LOANS

WASHINGTON, Aug. 28—Acting Secretary of Agriculture Roland Vautour announced today that the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation will permit an extension for 30 days of sugar loans maturing Aug. 31.

The chaotic conditions in Florida and Louisiana, and disruption of shipping prompted this action. It is intended to maintain orderly marketing conditions so as not to impair the effectiveness of the sugar price-support program, Vautour said.

#

Gene Rosera (202) 720-6734
Charles Hobbs (202) 720-4026

USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET RICE PRICES

WASHINGTON, Sept. 1—Acting Under Secretary of Agriculture Randall Green today announced the prevailing world market prices of milled rice, loan rate basis, as follows:

- long grain whole kernels, 9.34 cents per pound;
- medium grain whole kernels, 8.46 cents per pound;
- short grain whole kernels, 8.45 cents per pound;
- broken kernels, 4.67 cents per pound.

Based upon these prevailing world market prices for milled rice, loan deficiency payment rates and gains from repaying price support loans at the world market price level are:

- for long grain, \$0.87 per hundredweight;
- for medium grain, \$0.81 per hundredweight;
- for short grain, \$0.81 per hundredweight.

The prices announced are effective today at 12:00:01 A.M. EDT until 12:00:00 a.m. EDT Wednesday, Sept. 9. The next scheduled price announcement will be made Sept. 9 at 7 a.m. EDT. The price announced at that time will be effective from 12:00:01 a.m. EDT Wednesday, Sept. 9.

#

USDA INCREASES EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE FOR HURRICANE VICTIMS

LINCOLN, Ill., Aug. 31—Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan today authorized the U.S. Department of Agriculture to spend an additional \$5 million for emergency food for victims of Hurricane Andrew in Florida and Louisiana.

The additional commodities will be used to supply the Army field kitchens and American Red Cross feeding operations in shelters, and for direct distribution to individuals at seven locations in the disaster area.

According to Madigan, the additional funds will provide food for 115,000 individuals for another two weeks. The commodities purchased will add to the stores of food already in warehouses in Florida and Louisiana, the principal USDA warehouse in Kansas City and supplies from surrounding states.

“With the addition of the food purchased with these funds,” Madigan said, “USDA will be able to meet our obligation of supplying sufficient food to feed all people in need, for as long as the need exists.”

Commodities purchased with the additional funds include canned meats, peanut butter, canned fruits and vegetables, infant formula and cereals, cheese, non-fat dry milk, juices, applesauce and other foods.

In related developments, USDA reached agreement with Florida and Louisiana officials on an emergency food stamp program designed to provide resources to victims to begin purchasing their own food.

In Louisiana, the program will target St. Mary and Iberia parishes and parts of St. Martin and Terrebonne parishes. Individuals who can demonstrate need will receive a maximum monthly benefit based upon family size. Persons currently on food stamps will also receive replacement food stamps for August.

In Florida, residents of Dade County who can demonstrate need will also receive the maximum benefit based upon family size. The benefit for a family of four is \$370 per month. Current food stamp program participants will also receive replacement food stamps for August.

There is a 10 day sign-up period for residents to apply in Florida. In Louisiana, the sign-up period is for seven days.

The agreement, which will go into effect this week, will provide an additional \$127.2 million to victims that will go to purchase food in the disaster area in Florida. In Louisiana, the program will add \$15 million.

So far, an estimated 1,604,500 pounds of food have been made available to the Army, Red Cross, and other feeding agencies. These supplies are valued at \$1,107,797. The supply "pipeline" for food is continually moving commodities from warehouses around the country to staging areas in south Florida for distribution. "To date, USDA has met and filled every request for food that it has received from the Army, the Red Cross and FEMA," said Madigan. We will continue to supply the food critical to victims of Hurricane Andrew."

#

Sean Adams (301) 504-9108
Leslie Parker (202) 720-4026

PLANTS RELEASE DISTRESS SIGNAL WHEN UNDER CATERPILLAR ATTACK

WASHINGTON, Sept. 1—When attacked by caterpillars, a corn plant releases an airborne chemical distress signal that lures friendly wasps to the rescue, said U.S. Department of Agriculture scientists.

Ted C.J. Turlings and James H. Tumlinson believe their study is the first to show that a plant releases chemical "S.O.S. signals" from all of its leaves—not just damaged ones—when caterpillars begin to feed. Their report is being published in the Sept. 1 issue of the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

The distress call is a combination of volatile chemicals, called terpenoids, that parasitic wasps use as a beacon to lead them to the caterpillars, according to the study by Turlings, an entomologist, and Tumlinson, a chemist, in USDA's Agricultural Research Service. They are based at the agency's Insect Attractants, Behavior and Basic Biology Research Lab in Gainesville, Fla.

The wasps, *Cotesia marginiventris*, sting the caterpillar larvae and lay an egg inside them. As the wasp egg develops into a larva, it eats the caterpillar. *C. marginiventris* and other similar beneficial insects are harmless to animals and humans, the scientists said, but act as biological control organisms for caterpillars and other crop pests.

Tumlinson said the study and others in collaboration with ARS entomologist W. Joe Lewis at Tifton, Ga., "will lay the groundwork for improving the effectiveness of these wasps in biological control. We think we can use the chemicals to keep the wasps where we want them so they search harder for the caterpillars."

Tumlinson said that he and fellow researchers have found in previous studies that wasps raised in the laboratory and released into the field often fly away. "But we've found that by exposing them to chemicals such as terpenoids, we can train them to stay in the area and use the chemicals as cues to locate the caterpillars."

He also said the ARS scientists are considering initiating collaborative projects with ARS plant molecular biologists to see if plants could be developed through genetic engineering to produce higher levels of terpenoids. "It's possible that plants would be better able to lure the beneficial wasps," Tumlinson said.

Turlings discovered the plant's distress call during studies of leaves on corn plant seedlings grown indoors. In the study, researchers scratched the surface of two leaves on each of 24 seedlings and left two leaves on each plant undamaged. Then they obtained an oral secretion from beet armyworm larvae (*Spodoptera exigua*) and rubbed it on the scratched leaves. The secretion—a combination of digestive fluids and saliva—caused the injured leaves to release the terpenoid chemicals.

Scientists measured those chemicals and found that the undamaged leaves also released significant amounts of the terpenoids. "This indicated to us that the plant's entire internal system was producing these chemicals and releasing them through all the leaves to defend itself," Tumlinson said. "It was system-wide, not just in the leaves that were damaged."

As further evidence, the researchers observed the wasps in flight tunnels. Up to 24 hours later, the wasps were still more attracted to the healthy leaves on seedlings with damaged leaves than they were to seedlings where no leaves had been damaged.

NOTE TO EDITORS: For details, contact Ted C.J. Turlings or James Tumlinson, Insect Attractants, Behavior and Basic Biology Research Lab, USDA, ARS, Gainesville, Fla. 32604. Telephone: (904) 374-5730.

#

Rebecca Unkenholz (202) 720-8998
Diane O'Connor (202) 720-4026

USDA AMENDS POTATO RESEARCH AND PROMOTION RULES AND REGULATIONS

WASHINGTON, Sept. 1—The U.S. Department of Agriculture is amending the rules and regulations of the National Potato Research and Promotion Plan to implement changes approved by potato producers and importers in a 1991 referendum.

Daniel D. Haley, administrator of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, said the changes will provide Harmonized Tariff Schedule code numbers, and assessment rates for imported tablestock potatoes, seed potatoes and processed potato products.

The changes will also:

- assess imported potatoes, potato products and seed potatoes at rates levied on domestic potato products (currently two cents per hundredweight) and includes importer representatives on the National Potato Promotion Board, the program's administrative body; and
- terminate the assessment refund provisions in the plan and the rules and regulations.

Details of this action will appear as an interim final rule in the Sept. 2 Federal Register and will be effective upon publication. To give the U.S. Customs Service enough time to implement collection, assessment rates on imported products will not be effective until 60 days after publication.

Interested parties will have 30 days to comment. Comments, in triplicate, must be received no later than Oct. 2 by the Docket Clerk, Research and Promotion Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Division, AMS, USDA, Room 2533-S, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456. Copies of the announcement and additional information are available from Georgia C. Abraham, at the same address, telephone (202) 720-5057.

#

Robert Feist (202) 720-6789
Phil Villa-Lobos (202) 720-4026

CCC INTEREST RATE FOR SEPTEMBER LOWERED TO 3-1/2 PERCENT

WASHINGTON, Sept. 1—Commodity loans disbursed in September by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation will carry a 3-1/2 percent interest rate, according to Keith Bjerke, executive vice president of the CCC.

The 3-1/2 percent interest rate is down from August's 3-3/4 percent and reflects the interest rate charged CCC by the U.S. Treasury in September.

#

Lynn K. Goldsbrough (202) 720-3930
Diane O'Connor (202) 720-4026

EMERGING DEMOCRACIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO HOLD INAUGURAL MEETING

WASHINGTON, Sept. 1—The Emerging Democracies Advisory Committee will hold its first meeting Sept. 17-18, at the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Washington, D.C.

The committee was mandated by the Food Agriculture Conservation and Trade Act of 1990 and appointed by the secretary of agriculture. The 19-member committee is comprised of experts from the private sector in areas such as marketing, transportation, food technologies and banking. Its mission is to make recommendations on policies and programs that will enhance agricultural exports to countries identified as emerging democracies. In addition, the committee will identify areas in which the United States can share its agricultural expertise through technical assistance and training activities.

The meeting will be in Room 5066, South Building, 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 17, and 8:30 a.m. - 12:45 p.m., Friday, Sept. 18. The meeting is open to the public.

#

Thomas McDonald (202) 720-3273
Charles Hobbs (202) 720-4026

PRIVATE EXPORTERS REPORT SALES ACTIVITY FOR UZBEKISTAN

WASHINGTON, Sept. 1—Private exporters today reported to the U.S. Department of Agriculture export sales of 102,000 metric tons of soft red winter wheat for delivery to Uzbekistan during the 1992-93 marketing year.

The marketing year for wheat began June 1.

USDA issues both daily and weekly export sales reports to the public. Exporters are required to report to USDA export sales of 100,000 metric tons or more of one commodity, made in one day, to one destination by 3:00 p.m. Eastern time on the next business day following the sale. Export sales of less than these quantities must be reported to USDA on a weekly basis.

#

Carol Swinehart (517) 353-9568
Ron Hall (202) 720-5747
Issued: September 2, 1992

USDA COMBATS “ALIEN INVADER” OF THE GREAT LAKES AND FARM IRRIGATION SYSTEMS

WASHINGTON—Scores of vacationers around the Great Lakes are looking forward to spending their Labor Day weekend on board either a charter boat or their own private sea vessel. However, chances are that lurking beneath the surface of the water, attached to that boat, is a creature that, though minuscule in size, has been wreaking great havoc on Great Lakes water facilities—and is now also threatening farm-related irrigation systems.

The zebra mussel is a clam-like mollusk which can reach one to two Michigan Sea Grant Extension agent Ron Kinnunen (right) shows Lake Erie charter boat captain Jerry Lica which test plates exhibit signs of zebra mussel infestation. The six plates were coated with various coatings designed to prevent zebra mussels from attaching to them and colonizing. The plates were then submerged in Lake Erie and checked periodically for colonization. Neg. No. 92BW1475-7. USDA Photo by Steve Stewart. inches in size. The name, which comes from the dark striping on its light shell, may appear humorous to some, but they aren't laughing around the Great Lakes. However, the U.S. Department of Agriculture is involved in efforts to cope

with—and slow—the zebra mussel's spread.

According to John Schwartz, program leader with the Michigan Sea Grant Extension program in USDA's Michigan Cooperative Extension Service, the zebra mussel originated in the [then] Soviet Union, moved to eastern Europe in the late 1700s, and is believed to have hitchhiked a ride to the Great Lakes in the ballast water of a transoceanic freighter from Europe sometime in 1986.

An ocean freighter probably dumped its ballast water in Lake St. Clair, which connects Lake Huron to Lake Erie near Detroit. In the process, the mussel was released into that lake, found a plankton-rich hospitable environment, and began multiplying rapidly.

By late 1990 this "alien invader" had spread to all five Great Lakes—and quickly established a reputation as a troublesome species. "It has disturbed the ecosystem of the Great Lakes and has caused problems at coastal facilities and for those who rely on the Great Lakes for water-based resources," Schwartz said.

Specialists with USDA's Cooperative Extension Service, in partnership with the Sea Grant College Program administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), have been monitoring the mussel's effects on the ecosystem. According to Michigan Sea Grant Extension agent Steve Stewart, any hard surface such as boat hulls, water intake pipes, native clams, and even other zebra mussels can be covered by layers of mussels in a short time.

"Our industrial and municipal facilities, as well as our recreational boaters, have all been affected," he said.

For instance, in December 1989 Michigan's Monroe water treatment plant on Lake Erie was shut down for several days. City residents were deprived of water due to a combination of zebra mussels encrusted on the intake pipes and ice blown in from Lake Erie. The tab for restoring the system and constructing a new intake for controlling zebra mussels was \$6 million.

Stewart added that, in other parts of the Great Lakes, navigation buoys have sunk from the weight of masses of mussels, boat engines have overheated due to mussel infestation, and shorelines have repelled beachcombers with the stench of mats consisting of millions of decomposing mussels—not to mention the sharp-edged mussel shells, which make walking barefoot along the beach a lot less enjoyable.

Jim Stacey, assistant state conservationist in East Lansing, Mich., with USDA's Soil Conservation Service, advised that another potential impact may be felt by those who use irrigation systems which are connected to waters infested with zebra mussels.

"Farm-related irrigation water is pumped from the Great Lakes either into drainage ditches, irrigation ditches, or irrigation pipes—all of which carry the water inland," he said. "Therefore, the potential for drawing in microscopic zebra mussel larvae exists."

"This inland spread of zebra mussels through those ditches can affect other inland lakes and streams, as well as clog up the ditches and pipes along the way."

Michaela Zint, zebra mussel information coordinator for Michigan Sea Grant Extension, noted that evidence of zebra mussel infestation has already been sighted in the Tennessee, Ohio, Illinois, Hudson, and Mississippi Rivers.

"It has the potential to affect at least the northern two-thirds of the United States," she advised.

She added that late summer is normally the reproductive peak period for the zebra mussel. Commercial and recreational boat traffic on both Great Lakes and inland waterways is high during these warmer months.

"This means that the potential for transferring the organism is greatest at this time," she said.

For answers on how to cope with and control the zebra mussel, most of the university-based Great Lakes Sea Grant programs, which include programs in Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, Michigan, New York, Ohio, and Wisconsin, have sponsored zebra mussel research.

For instance, according to Bud Griswold, program director for the Marine Advisory Service of the National Sea Grant College Program at NOAA, Sea Grant Extension agents and NOAA scientists have been researching the effectiveness of anti-mussel control and prevention methods, as well as the mussel's ecological effect on the Great Lakes themselves.

Potential control methods range from "compound Z," a potentially effective and very simple chemical—potassium—being studied by Ohio Sea Grant entomologist Susan Fisher, to elaborate engineering and construction methods for preventing the invasion of this persistent pest.

He added that Extension agents and NOAA scientists are also testing toxic coatings, filtration, ultraviolet lights, and ultrasound as methods to keep the zebra mussel from colonizing.

Sea Grant Extension specialists have also sought information from sources in other parts of the world—such as scientists in Poland and the Netherlands—who have developed strategies based on years of experience coping with the zebra mussel. Griswold said they have also sponsored international conferences to share their findings.

In addition, the various Sea Grant Extension programs are attempting to quickly disseminate all information, that has been proven valid, to prevent zebra mussel-caused problems such as those found in the Great Lakes.

For example, with financial support from the Electric Power Research Institute, New York Sea Grant has established a national Zebra Mussel Information Clearinghouse that publishes a bimonthly newsletter on the latest developments. Wisconsin Sea Grant's Advisory Service publishes its own periodic update, while Ohio Sea Grant has produced a fact sheet, now in its fourth printing.

To provide information to millions of boaters, shoreline property owners, and other potentially affected citizens, Ohio and New York Sea Grant Extension specialists have produced short instructional videotapes which offer tips on zebra mussel control. Michigan's charter fishing captains and commercial fishers have read about zebra mussels in publications produced by Michigan Sea Grant Extension specialists.

According to Zint, some research on irrigation filtration systems should be completed during 1993. "This may result in irrigation systems in which the zebra mussel threat can be minimized," she said.

"That should help farmers cope with the zebra mussel infestation problems they may be facing in their irrigation systems."

"Finally," said Michigan Sea Grant Extension agent Chuck Pistis, "all Great Lakes Sea Grant programs have been distributing business card-sized identification cards which urge anyone who finds zebra mussels—in new locations—to call a Sea Grant Extension office."

"We may not be able to completely prevent the spread of the mussel," he added, "but we can help those who are unfamiliar with it to be better prepared when it comes their way."

NOTE TO EDITORS: For details, contact John Schwartz, program leader, Michigan Sea Grant Extension program, Michigan Cooperative Extension Service, USDA, East Lansing, Mich. 48824. Telephone: (517) 353-9568. Black-and-white glossy prints of the photo are available from the Photography Division, Room 4404-S, Office of Public Affairs, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250-1300; telephone number (202) 720-6633. Request by negative number.

#

Don Comis (301) 504-9073
Leslie Parker (202) 720-4026

CROPS CRASH-TESTED FOR SURVIVING DROUGHT

WASHINGTON, Sept. 2—U.S. Department of Agriculture researchers are crash testing plants for drought stress in Lubbock, Texas.

Like a test pilot stressing an airplane to find its design limits, soil physicist Dan R. Upchurch sits at the control panel of his droughtmaker and puts cotton plants through their paces.

"I want to know the maximum rate water can flow through the roots to the plant before severe stress occurs," said Upchurch, based at an Agricultural Research Service laboratory in Lubbock.

He said the goal is to identify desirable root traits related to the ability to take in water. Then a biotechnology team at Lubbock can customdesign crops that survive on the least possible water, he said.

Upchurch is also pushing the drought-maker he designed to its limits, during the "shakedown" phase before starting full-scale field tests next summer.

As he cranks the temperature up past 100 degrees F...115...120, he is creating conditions, he said, that are hotter and drier than the worse day in an Arizona desert. And he's doing it between rainstorms on a warm humid day in West Texas.

Upchurch's control room is a camper parked in a cotton field at the Lubbock lab, which undertakes plant stress and water conservation research. Wearing earphones and a microphone, he is in constant walkie-talkie communication with colleagues outside the camper. They open and close valves to recirculate air through a large hose into a 9-cubic-foot plexiglass box placed over a group of plants used for experimental tests of the equipment.

A computerized panel controls the mix of air from a 15-ton air conditioner and a 25,000-watt heater mounted on a flatbed trailer. Air is cooled to remove water, then reheated to control both temperature and humidity in the box.

Upchurch said the drought-making study, known as Project ECLIPSE, will be used to "stress test" cotton and sunflower plants.

"We'll start this year with plants grown hydroponically so there is no soil to resist the flow of water. We want to see if there is an upper limit to the rate of water flow through the roots," he said.

"Next, we'll compare the water use rate of potted plants, to check the effect of soil," he said.

Upchurch said that next summer he will move the trailer and flatbed to the outdoor fields of plant breeding nurseries in Lubbock to perform the tests on a larger scale than current experiments.

"We will crash each plant as quickly as possible to find the 'design limits' of each variety," he said.

The key to finding these limits lies in monitoring both the speed at which air is pumped through the plexiglass box and the dewpoint. "If I know the difference between dewpoint of the air going in and coming out, I know how much water has been added to the air by the plants," he said.

"With the average air speed, I can then calculate the plant's water usage, known as the evapo-transpiration rate. If this were a person undergoing a stress test, we'd be pushing the pulse rate up instead of the ET. It's the same principle."

NOTE TO EDITORS: For details, contact Dan R. Upchurch, soil physicist, Cropping Systems Research Laboratory, USDA, ARS, Lubbock, Tex. 79401. Telephone (806) 746-5353.

#

Geraldine Schumacher (202) 720-7115
Roger Runningen (202) 720-4623

USDA ANNOUNCES 1992/93 EXPORT ENHANCEMENT PACKAGE FOR WHEAT

WASHINGTON, Sept. 2—Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Ann M. Veneman today detailed a multi-country package of initiatives under the Export Enhancement Program to encourage sales of nearly 30 million metric tons of U.S. wheat during the 1992 international marketing year.

Earlier today in Sioux Falls, S.D., President Bush announced the almost 1.1 billion bushel (30 million metric tons) wheat EEP package—by far the largest EEP initiative ever.

The new package of wheat initiatives to 28 countries or regions replaces all EEP wheat initiatives announced previously and includes several additional countries. Sales made since July 1 under previous initiatives will be deducted from the quantities made available in this new multi-country package. The new initiatives will remain in effect through the 1992/93 marketing year for wheat, which ends June 30, 1993. Veneman said additional destinations or quantities may be added to the package later.

"This EEP package will be especially important in maintaining U.S. wheat exports and in supporting U.S. wheat prices in light of our increased 1992

wheat crop," Veneman said. "It also puts the world on notice that the United States intends to remain vigilant in combating trade-distorting policies that result in bigger and bigger grain crops."

Veneman noted that the European Community's market-distorting policies have led to record-large production and stock levels, resulting in pressure to export ever-increasing volumes of agricultural products by means of subsidized prices. "By directly challenging EC prices, on a destination-by-destination basis, we are sending a strong message to the EC and other subsidizers that we are committed to making sure U.S. wheat producers and exporters remain competitive in world markets. We are also maintaining pressure on the EC to do more to discipline export practices through the multilateral trade negotiations now underway, and to make sure that any reforms undertaken by the members of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade are fully effective."

Veneman said, "The package approach will help us make sure that EEP initiatives are in place on a timely basis for all our important, traditional wheat markets where U.S. farmers and exporters face subsidized competition. U.S. exports under the EEP to countries included in this package totaled 18.6 million metric tons in 1991/92. Although competition will be stronger in the year ahead, this package will enable us to remain competitive in markets where the EEP has been used in the past as well as in several markets not previously included under the EEP."

The wheat initiatives announced in today's EEP package have been carefully limited to leave room for the continuation of previous sales levels by non-subsidizing competitor countries, according to Veneman. She said the United States will continue to obtain assurances, where appropriate, from importing countries that such trade will not be disrupted.

The package of initiatives announced today, in thousand metric tons, include:

Africa, West and Central	1,000	Morocco	1,000
Algeria	1,750	Norway	150
Bangladesh	700	Pakistan	800
Bahrain	25	Philippines	1,200
Brazil	500	Poland (excl. durum)	400
China	7,000	Romania (excl. durum)	500
Cyprus	50	South Africa	400
East Europe (durum)	140	Sri Lanka	500
Egypt	3,500	Trinidad and Tobago	125
India	1,500	Tunisia	300

Jordan	600	Former Soviet Union	5,500
Kenya	100	Venezuela	400
Kuwait	150	Yemen	600
Lebanon	160		
Malta	50	Total	29,100

Sales made under the EEP to the above list of countries since July 1 in thousand metric tons, are as follows:

Africa, West and Central	78
Algeria	100
Bangladesh	77
Cyprus	18
Egypt	500
Jordan	50
Malta	10
Morocco	280
Philippines	342
Trinidad and Tobago	35
Former Soviet Union	1,131
Venezuela	110
Total	2,731

#

Thomas B. McDonald (202) 720-3273
Charles Hobbs (202) 720-4026

PRIVATE EXPORTERS REPORT SALES ACTIVITY FOR UNKNOWN

WASHINGTON, Sept. 2—Private exporters today reported to the U.S. Department of Agriculture export sales of 100,000 metric tons of soybeans for delivery to unknown destinations during the 1992-93 marketing year.

The marketing year for soybeans begins Sept. 1.

USDA issues both daily and weekly export sales reports to the public. Exporters are required to report to USDA export sales of 100,000 metric tons or more of one commodity, made in one day, to one destination by 3:00 p.m. Eastern time on the next business day following the sale. Export sales of less than these quantities must be reported to USDA on a weekly basis.

#

